



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2014

Animal Control

Contact: Dr. John Lauby, Director

Telephone: 910-321-6857

E-mail: jlauby@co.cumberland.nc.us

Cumberland County Reports Fourth Rabies Case For 2014

FAYETTEVILLE – This morning, Thursday, April 10, the State Public Health Lab in Raleigh reported positive results for rabies in a fox picked up on Wednesday, April 9, from Lake Upchurch Road in Parkton. The address is in Cumberland County.

A man reported that he was outside with his two dogs when a fox approached and attacked the dogs. The man grabbed the fox and snapped its neck. He has been advised to seek treatment for exposure to rabies immediately. The dogs have not been vaccinated against rabies; therefore, according to state statute, the dogs must be quarantined for six months at a veterinarian's office or euthanized.

This is the fourth rabies case in the county for 2014. Animal Control officers will be in the area today notifying residents about the rabies report. In March, a rabid raccoon killed by stray dogs in the Cedar Creek area tested positive for rabies. The stray dogs involved in that incident have since been impounded and euthanized.

All pet owners are urged to check the vaccination status of their pets. If pets are not vaccinated or are due for a booster shot, they should be taken to a local veterinarian for rabies vaccination immediately. The county is holding rabies vaccination clinics in April. The Health Department and Animal Control will be at Lake Rim Park and Spring Lake Middle School today from 4-6 p.m.

More information is available online at http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health/healthy_tips/rabies_clinics.aspx.

Rabies vaccination clinics will be held at the following dates and locations from 4 – 6 p.m.:

Thursday, April 10

- Lake Rim Park – 2214 Tarkin Dr. (off Raeford Road)
- Spring Lake Middle School – 612 Spring Ave., Spring Lake

Tuesday, April 15

- Warrenwood Elementary School – 4618 Rosehill Rd.
- Alderman Road Elementary School – 2860 Alderman Rd.

Thursday, April 17

- Benjamin Martin Elementary School – 240 Reilly Rd.
- Clear Path (formerly Monsanto) parking lot – 3768 Cedar Creek Rd.

-more-

Tuesday, April 22

- Eastover-Central Elementary School – 5174 Dunn Rd. at U.S. Highway 13
- Northwood Temple Church – 4200 Ramsey St.

Thursday, April 24

- District 7 Elementary School – 5721 Smithfield Rd.
- Mazarick Park – 1400 Belvedere Ave.

The first sign of rabies in animals is a change in behavior. Animals may become aggressive, attacking for no reason, or they may become very quiet. Wild animals can lose their fear of people and act tame. Rabid animals may walk in a circle, drag a leg, or fall over. Some cannot swallow so they are not able to eat or drink and often drool. Animals usually die within a week after first becoming ill.

Avoiding wild animals and keeping your distance from stray dogs and cats is the first step in preventing an animal bite. Any pet, which appears to have been in a fight while outside, should be handled very cautiously and seen by a veterinarian.

If you are bitten or scratched by an animal:

- Immediately wash the wound under running water for at least 10 minutes with lots of soap. Seek medical attention/advice.
- Call Animal Control at 321-6852 Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call the Sheriff's Office at 323-1500 after 5 p.m., weekends and holidays.
- Go to the emergency room.

It is also important to vaccinate your pets for rabies and keep their shots current. Pet owners are reminded that all dogs and cats must be vaccinated against rabies, as required by state law. Pet owners are subject to a fine of \$100 for each unvaccinated dog or cat. Pets must be vaccinated when they reach the age of four months.